

WELLESLEY FELLS LIBRARY & ELIZABETH WOODLEY MEMORIAL PARK

At the intersection of Route 9 and Weston Road is the center of a section of Wellesley called Wellesley Fells. This area was settled quite early in Wellesley's history and in 1838, the Northwest School was built. It contained one teacher, one room and three grades. As the community grew, it became an area called Unionville and in 1876, the school name was changed to Unionville School. The total school population reached twelve in number. In 1907, it was again changed in name to become the Fells School. The population of Wellesley began to rapidly expand so by 1923, the school was moved to the new Hardy School a half block away and the one room school building became the Fells Branch Library. Today, this building is the oldest public building still in use in Wellesley.

In 1977, a well loved member of the League of Women Voters, Elizabeth B. Woodley was killed near the Library on Route 9. The LWV decided to build a park in her memory on the half acre of Library grounds and the Lib Woodley Park was established in 1978. The original intent was to be a garden for reading and relaxation for the enjoyment of the library patrons and the neighborhood. Unfortunately, the original design failed, so it was abandoned in 1984 as efforts began to create a new design. The Library Trustees met with neighbors and library patrons to discuss ideas for a new landscape and memorial around the library. As soon as additional funds were obtained, the landscape was revised to include a new sitting area in front of the building; a new seven car parking lot was built; the memorials were relocated to beside the building and a picket fence was installed. The fence was reminiscent of the Unionville School picket fence. The fence was also enhanced with a border of old-fashioned perennials. The plant list includes: Yarrow, Chives, Hollyhock, Asters, False Indigo, Daisy, Bleeding Heart, Daylily, Iris, Phlox, Violets and assorted spring bulbs.

The old library and new park stand as reminders of Wellesley's glorious past, its well loved leaders and the future of a bright and beautiful Wellesley.